Amendments to the Claims:

The pending claims are set forth below with changes indicated. The below listed claims replace all prior versions and listings of pending claims.

Listing of Claims:

13. (currently amended) A grading rake, comprising:

a handle having a first and a second end;

a holder secured to the second end of the handle;

an elongate rake head secured in a fixed position in relation to the handle by the holder; and

a plurality of tines extending from the rake head for grading particulate matter, wherein an angle between the plurality of tines and the handle ranges from about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees;

wherein the plurality of tines include a truncated end surface forming an angle with the handle ranging from about plus ten degrees to negative ten degrees.

14. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the rake head is substantially cylindrical.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the truncated end surfaces of the tines are substantially parallel with the handle.

17. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the truncated end surfaces of the tines form an angle with an axis of the tines ranging from about thirty to about sixty degrees.

18. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the holder includes an arcuate curve complementing a surface of the elongate rake head.

19. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 18, further including at least one fastener for securing the rake head to the holder.

20. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines extend through holes in the rake head.

21. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 19, further including a plurality of fasteners for releasably securing the plurality of tines to the rake head.

22. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines are substantially cylindrical.

23. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 22, wherein the plurality of tines have a diameter ranging from about 0.25 to about 0.5 inch.

24. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines are uniformly spaced apart from about 0.5 to about 1.5 inch.

25. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines are formed from a flexibly rigid polymer.

26. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 25, wherein the polymer includes nylon.

27. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 25, wherein the plurality of tines flex about 0.5 to about 1 inch at a free end with respect to an end secured by the rake head without breaking.

28. (currently amended) A grading rake, comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end;

a holder secured to the second end of the handle;

a substantially cylindrical rake head substantially perpendicularly secured to the handle by the holder; and

a plurality of tines extending from holes in the rake head having respective truncated end surfaces, wherein an angle between the plurality of tines and the handle ranges from about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees and an angle between the truncated end surfaces and the handle ranges from minus ten degrees and positive ten degrees.

29. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the truncated end surfaces are substantially parallel to the handle.

30. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the truncated end surfaces form an angle with respective tine axes ranging from about thirty degrees and about sixty degrees.

31. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of tines extend from holes formed through the rake head.

32. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 31, further including removable fasteners for securing the plurality of tines.

33. (currently amended) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of tines are formed from a [flexibly rigid] polymer material that is stiff and capable of flexing at flexing at a free end without permanently deforming.

34. (currently amended) The grading rake according to claim 33, wherein the plurality of tines flex from about 0.5 inch to about 1 inch at [a] the free end with respect to an end secured by the rake head without breaking.

35. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of tines are substantially cylindrical having a diameter ranging from about 0.25 inch to about 0.5 inch.

36. (previously presented) The grading rake according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of tines include nylon.

37. (currently amended) A method of grading particulate matter, comprising:

pushing particulate matter with a grading rake; and

pulling the particulate matter with the grading rake such that cylindrical nylon tines extending from a rake head flex from about 0.5 inch to about 1 inch at a free end such that the tines separate relatively large particles from smaller particles, wherein a truncated end surface of the tines travels across a surface of the particulate matter,

wherein the truncated end surfaces form an angle with a handle of the grading rake ranging from about positive ten degrees and minus ten degrees, and the plurality of tines form angle with a handle of the rake ranging from about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees.

38. (cancelled)

39. (cancelled)